

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 objections are now mute in view of the claim amendments.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0 419 266 to Sawyer ("Sawyer") in view of George A. Olah, Hydrocarbon Chemistry, 1995 ("Olah"). Applicants respectfully disagree, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the following.

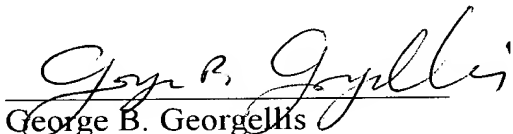
Applicants' invention requires a bulk multimetallic catalyst comprised of at least one Group VIII non-noble metal and at least two Group VIB metals. For example, applicants' invention requires the simultaneous presence of both W and Mo in a bulk Ni-Mo-W catalyst precursor. This combination results in a surprisingly increased activity as compared to the bulk Ni-Mo precursor or Ni-Mo sulfide. None of the cited references describe the use of the inventive Ni-Mo-W catalyst combination. The claimed combination provides unexpected high activity.

The Examiner suggests that Sawyer "discloses a process wherein a Group VIII non-noble metal is selected from Ni and Co and the Group VIB metals are selected from Mo and W . . . wherein the Group VIII non-noble metal is nickel." Office Action of January 22, 2003, at page 3, lines 16-19. Applicants respectfully disagree. Sawyer describes a catalyst having two Group VIII and one Group VI

component. Applicants' claimed method employs a catalyst that includes two Group VIB components and one Group VIII component. Applicants' method is advantageous because, inter alia, the use of the inventive bulk multimetallic catalyst provides unexpectedly high activity. Neither Olah nor Velenyi disclose Applicants' inventive catalyst.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants' invention is not obvious over the combination of Sawyer and Olah, or Sawyer, Olah and Velenyi. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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☒ Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34(a)

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